

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128284

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AR, PE, VE

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF DEA REGIONAL OFFICE

REF: STATE 097089, CARACAS 4218 (NOTAL), LIMA 3715 (NOTAL)

FOR GOUGH-GENEVA

1. DEA HEADQUARTERS HAS INFORMED THE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WISHES TO RELOCATE ITS BUENOS AIRES REGIONAL OFFICE IN CARACAS AND DEFER A DECISION ON CREATING A NEW ANDEAN REGIONAL OFFICE IN LIMA.

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2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DEA PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDES ITS RATIONALE FOR THIS DECISION AND DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED MOVE: "AS YOU KNOW, IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEED TO MOVE OUR REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR SOUTH AMERICA FROM BUENOS AIRES, DEA CONSIDERED THREE OPTIONS:

1.MOVE THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO CARACAS.

2. MOVE THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO LIMA.

3. SPLIT THE REGION IN TWO WITH LIMA AS A HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WEST COAST OR COCAINE BELT OF SOUTH AMERICA AND CARACAS AS A HEADQUARTERS FOR THE EAST COAST DEALING WITH THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC IN HEROIN FROM EUROPE AS WELL AS THE COCAINE TRAFFIC ENROUTE FROM THE WEST COAST.

AFTER CAREFULLY CONSIDERING ALL THE FACTORS, A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE THAT OUR SOUTH AMERICA REGION SHOULD REMAIN AS ONE AND THAT THE HEADQUARTERS SHOULD BE MOVED TO CARACAS SUBJECT TO THE EMBASSY'S ABILITY TO ABSORB IT. THE LIMA DISTRICT OFFICE OF DEA WILL BE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL RE-SOURCES IN LINE WITH THE CCINC MANDATE FOR AN INCREASED DEA PRESENCE AND PROGRAMS ABROAD. OVER AND ABOVE THE SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, SPECIAL AGENT AND ONE SECRETARY NOW AT LIMA, AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AGENT HAS BEEN SELECTED TO FILL A POSITION AUTHORIZED IN FY 74. HE IS SCHEDULED TO REPORT IN AUGUST. ALSO, DURING FY 75, TWO ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AGENTS AND ONE NEW CLERICAL POSITION ARE PROGRAMMED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO LIMA.

THE PROBLEM OF THE UNCONTROLLED PRODUCTION OF COCA LEAF IN THE ANDEAN REGION AND THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURE AND TRAFFIC OF COCAINE ORIGINATING IN THAT AREA AFFECTING THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO BE CLOSELY MONITORED BY DEA AS IT PARTICIPATES IN THE JOINT U.S. AGENCY EFFORT TO BRING THIS SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

IN TIME, SHOULD A CONSENSUS DEVELOP THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE OVERALL UNITED STATES PROGRAM WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY
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DEA CREATING A SEPARATE "ANDEAN OR COCAINE BELT REGION" AT LIMA, WE SHALL OF COURSE, CONSIDER DOING SO.

WE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL AND/OR POSITIONS BE TRANSFERRED FROM BUENOS AIRES:

REGIONAL DIRECTOR - MR. LOUIS BACHRACH
DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR - MR. FRANK L. MACOLINI

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - MR. JOHN MERRELL
INTELLIGENCE CLERK - MS. JENNIFER GARCIA-TOBAR

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR TRANSFER
TO BUENOS AIRES BUT WILL NOW BE REASSIGNED TO CARACAS PENDING THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES:

ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR - HARRISON D. PAULUS
SPECIAL AGENT - BOBBY SHEPHERD

THE SAIC, SPECIAL AGENT AND SECRETARY AT CARACAS WILL BE
RETAINED AT THAT POST, AND THE PROPOSED FY 75 INCREASE OF
ONE SPECIAL AGENT AND ONE SECRETARY FOR CARACAS IS ALSO
BEING RETAINED SINCE THE REGIONAL STAFF IS NOT EXPECTED TO
AMELIORATE THE INCREASING ENFORCEMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THAT
OFFICE. ALSO, THE INTELLIGENCE STAFF INCREASES IN THE
FY 75 PLAN FOR BUENOS AIRES WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO CARACAS.
THIS INCLUDES ONE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OFFICER, TWO

INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS AND TWO INTELLIGENCE CLERKS.

THE TOTAL COMPLEMENT INCLUDING TRANSFERS FROM BUENOS AIRES
AND NEWLY REQUESTED POSITIONS FOR CARACAS, IS SHOWN BELOW:

SUPERVISORY AND FIELD AGENT PERSONNEL	7
INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS OFFICER	1
INTELLIGENCE ANALYST	2
INTELLIGENCE CLERK	3
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND CLERICAL PERSONNEL	8

IT WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU WOULD COMMUNICATE
WITH THE EMBASSY AT CARACAS AND REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE
ASSIGNMENT OF THESE POSITIONS. WE ESTIMATE THE PHYSICAL
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MOVEMENT OF THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FILES ALONG WITH THE
REGIONAL DIRECTOR BACHRACH AND HIS THREE COLLEAGUES CAN BE
CARRIED OUT ON OR ABOUT JULY 15, 1974. WE WOULD COMMENCE
FILLING THE OTHER REGIONAL POSITIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF MR. BACHRACH AT CARACAS. HOWEVER, IT
IS EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST 90 DAYS TO BRING
THE STAFF TO THE FULL 21 POSITION LEVEL WE ARE REQUESTING
BE AUTHORIZED BY THE EMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FROM
BUENOS AIRES, SPECIAL AGENT TRYAL WILL ASSUME THE POSITION
OF ACTING COUNTRY ATTACHE AND SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE.
SPECIAL AGENTS PHILLIPS, FORTEZA AND HINOJOSA, CURRENTLY
ASSIGNED TO BUENOS AIRES WILL REMAIN THERE AND TWO CLERICAL
SUPPORT POSITIONS WILL ALSO BE RETAINED. FOR YOUR INFOR-

MATION OUR AUTHORIZED POSITIONS AT BUENOS AIRES INCLUDED EIGHT (8) SUPERVISORY AND FIELD AGENT PERSONNEL AND ELEVEN (II) ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT POSITIONS, TEN (10) OF WHICH WERE FILLED.

OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL, TWO WILL TRANSFER TO CARACAS, TWO WILL REMAIN WITH OUR BUENOS AIRES DISTRICT OFFICE, ONE WILL ROTATE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE REMAINING FIVE LOCALLY HIRED PERSONNEL FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN WILL REMAIN IN BUENOS AIRES AND LEAVE DEA.

THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT CARACAS WILL ALSO BE ASSIGNED DEA RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF THE CARIBBEAN. THIS WOULD BE NORTH TO, BUT NOT INCLUDING, MARTINIQUE. THAT ISLAND AND THE TERRITORY NORTH WILL COORDINATE TO BE SERVICED FROM MIAMI WHERE A SPECIAL COORDINATOR WITH AN APPROPRIATE STAFF IS SCHEDULED TO BE APPOINTED FOR THAT SECTOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WE ARE PROGRAMMING INCREASED MANPOWER AND RESOURCES FOR THE CARIBBEAN OPERATION BASED AT MIAMI AND BELIEVE IT WILL GREATLY ENHANCE OUR EFFECTIVENESS IN SUPPRESSING SMUGGLING AND THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC AT JAMAICA, PUERTO RICO, GUADALOUPE, MARTINIQUE, ST. MARTIN, AND ST. BARTHELEMY."

3. THE DEPARTMENT IS PREPARED TO CONCUR IN THE DEA
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PROPOSAL PROVIDED APPROVAL RECEIVED FROM EMBASSY CARACAS AND GOV.

4. FOR CARACAS - IF YOU APPROVE THE DEA MOVE PLEASE RAISE THE MATTER AT WHATEVER LEVEL IN THE GOV YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE TO SEEK GOV ACCEPTANCE. PLEASE ADVISE. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR MACOLINI AND DEA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER JOHN MERRILL ARE NOW IN CARACAS AUTHORIZED BY DEA TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE MOVE WITH YOU. SUGGEST YOU DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR PROVIDING OFFICE SPACE, SECURITY AND OTHER REQUIRED SUPPORT AND FURNISH THESE TO DEPARTMENT WITH BEST ESTIMATE OF ALL COSTS INVOLVED. ARA MANAGEMENT WILL DISCUSS COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS WITH DEA HEADQUARTERS PER CARACAS 4218 AND - WILL ASSESS ADDITIONAL C & R PERSONNEL MISSION WILL REQUIRE TO HANDLE DEA TRAFFIC.

5. FOR LIMA: DEA HEADQUARTERS AND THE DEPARTMENT APPRECIATE YOUR POSITIVE RESPONSE TO DEA'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. SISCO

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